

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 03733 170756Z
ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DPW-01 AID-05 AGRE-00
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /089 W
-----170803Z 074473 /11

R 170714Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9345
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU
JCRC BARBERS PT HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 3733

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CB, VN
SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE HANOI

REF: (A) BANGKOK 3672 (B) BANGKOK 1489 (C) STATE 19136

1. EMBOFF AND JCRC REPRESENTATIVE MET FEB 14 WITH ALEXANDRE CASELLA, UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE IN HANOI, WHO WAS EN ROUTE TO GENEVA FOR TWO WEEKS LEAVE. FOLLOWING ARE MAJOR POINTS OF CONFERSATION.

2. RELATIONS WITH U.S. CASELLA SAID HE HAD NOTHING NEW TO NOTE ON EITHER MIA'S, AMERICANS IN VIET-NAM, OR FAMILY REUNIFICATION. ON THE GENERAL SUBJECT OF U.S.-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS, CASELLA OBSERVED THAT VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY CLOSEMOUTHED OF LATE, APPEARING TO BE PLAYING IT CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 03733 170756Z

CAREFUL SO AS NOT TO ANTAGONIZE THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WHILE THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF ITS TAKING WHAT THE VIETNAMESE REGARD AS POSITIVE ACTION TOWARD THEM. (NOTE: SEE REF A FOR FAIRLY HARSH VIETNAMESE MEDIA COMMENT CONCERNING U.S. APPEARING FEB 15.)

3. FOOD PROBLEMS. CASELLA SAID THE WINTER IN NORTHERN

VIET-NAM HAS BEEN THE COLDEST IN 20 YEARS, WITH TEMPERATURES OFTEN IN LOW 30'S. NORTH CENTRAL VIET-NAM FACED DROUGHT, THEN RAINS WHICH CAME TOO LATE AND RESULTED IN FLOODING, THEN THE COLD. VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS SAID THE WINTER RICE CROP THERE HAD BEEN VIRTUALLY ENTIRELY DESTROYED, AND CASELLA, WHO RECENTLY TRAVELED IN NGHE AN PROVINCE, ADMITTED THAT FIELDS LOOKED THAT WAY. HE SAID THAT NORMAL RICE RATIONS OF 18 KGS PER PERSON PER MONTH HAS BEEN REDUCED THERE TO 3-4 KGS. VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS ARE ESTIMATING A NATIONAL DEFICIT IN DECEMBER-FEBRUARY OF ONE-HALF MILLION TONS OF RICE. WITH ANTICIPATED POOR SPRING CROPS, FOOD DEFICIT IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE. SRV HAS APPEALED TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE EEC, FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE (E.G., RICE, FLOUR, ANY OTHER KIND OF GRAIN) FOR MARCH-JULY PERIOD. CASELLA IS PREPARING PROPOSAL FOR UNHCR TO ASSIST DISPLACED PERSONS IN SEVERAL DISTRICTS OF NGHE AN WITH FOOD.

4. FORCED REPATRIATION OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEES. CASELLA SAID HE HAD HEARD NOTHING ON THE SUBJECT, WHICH WE REPORTED REF B. HE SAID HE HAS BEEN ASSURED THAT VIET-NAM, WITH ONE MILLION RESIDENT CAMBODIANS (INCLUDING KHMER KROM), WOULD NOT PERMIT A POLICY OF FORCED REPATRIATION AND THAT THE SRV KNEW NOTHING OF THE ALLEGED INCIDENT, CASELLA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT LOCAL AUTHORITIES COULD CONCEIVABLY CARRY OUT SUCH AN OPERATION AT A REMOTE AREA, OF WHICH NO ONE WOULD EASILY HEAR. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE RECEIVES QUANTITY OF LETTERS FROM CAMBODIANS IN SAIGON REQUESTING HELP IN LEAVING THE COUNTRY, AND ONE HAVE MENTIONED ANYTHING OF THE SORT.

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PAGE 03 BANGKO 03733 170756Z

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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